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Date & Time
Feb 14, 2018, 9:44 am

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2698 HD1, RELATING TO VETERANS

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE
AND THE ARTS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

February 15, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Good morning, Chair LoPresti, Vice Chair Fukumoto, and members of the Committee:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services. I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of the concepts in House Bill 2698 HD1.

This measure appropriates moneys for the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of World War I honoring the legacy of the men and women who served in the "Great War."

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families.

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Feb 13, 2018, 1:38 pm

HB-2698-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 1:29:32 PM
Testimony for VMI on 2/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna L. Ching	Vice Chairman, Hawaii State World War I Centennial Task Force	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for supporting the more than 10,000 soldiers and civilians from Hawaii who served in the Great War. As the world commemorates the 100th anniversary of the signing of Armistice, let's bring Hawaii's WWI history alive by recalling and honoring the contributions that our state made. The programs and projects planned will revive our collective memory of that time, the heros and war time stories - from bandage rolling in the throne room at Iolani Palace; to Duke Kahanamoku knitting sweaters for the western front; to composer (and aviator) R.A. Anderson using his Punahou German language classes to aid his escape from a prison camp after being shot down over Belgium! Please support the passage of HB 2698. Aloha, Donna L. Ching



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Feb 14, 2018, 9:48 am



Military Order of the World Wars

Department of Hawaii
Office of the Commander

Rep. Matthew LoPresti
Chairman Committee on
Veterans, Military, & International
Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

February 14, 2018

Dear Representative LoPresti,

The Military Order of World Wars, Department of Hawaii, is pleased to provide testimony for HB 2698 to fund Hawaii's official commemoration of the Centennial of World War One, and to honor the sacrifices and service of Hawaii's citizens, both military and civilian, during the Great War. The Military Order of World Wars was born out of WWI, and was formed in 1919 by Officers who served on the Staff of General John Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Force. In the preamble to our Order's constitution, our members dedicate themselves ***"To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of memorials of the World Wars."***

We are pleased to see this Bill come before your committee and fully support its approval and implementation, along with adequate resources to ensure its success. Established by an Act of the U.S. Congress (Public Law 112-272—JAN. 14, 2013) the National World War One Centennial Commemoration relies on each State and Territory to plan and carry out its own commemoration programs. At the direction of Governor, the Hawaii World War One Centennial Task Force was formed to lead the State's efforts. This body, and the commemoration effort, cannot operate or accomplish its assigned mission without funding.

We are only nine months away from the Centennial of Armistice Day, which saw the end of the fighting in WWI. If Hawaii is to have a commemoration worthy of the sacrifices and service of the roughly 10,000 citizens who served either in uniform or civilian capacity, it must be funded by the State.

This legislation is urgently needed to provide the resources that will allow the people of Hawaii to express their respect, admiration, and gratitude to the generation who served during the Great War.

Very Respectfully,

Arthur N. Tulak
COL, U.S. Army, Ret.
Commander

The Uniformed Service Member's Voice in Government
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES
Hawaii Chapter (HI-1)

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Date & Time
Feb 14, 2018, 9:51 am

FEBRUARY 15th 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2698

RELATING TO THE WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

FEBRUARY 15TH 2018 HEARING, AT 10AM, IN CONFERENCE ROOM 429

Aloha Chair LoPresti and Vice Chair Fukumoto: Mahalo for providing this opportunity to share our sentiments, in support of House Bill 2698. The National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) is well known on Capitol Hill, as "The Service Member's Voice in Government;" while this voice is silent, NAUS Hawaii Chapter (HI-1) continues their legacy, at the will and pleasure of our nation's largest per-capita uniformed services community, as an American Retirees Association affiliate.

Representing the interests of all Uniformed Service branches, NAUS Hawaii Chapter sincerely appreciates your committee's willingness to consider

- a. honoring our WW1 veterans by
- b. appropriating TBD State's general funds, in support of our WW1 commemoration activities.

Your committee's action, in support of HB 2698 will no doubt, be greatly appreciated by our WW1 veterans and their families

Thank you for being here for us,

D Egge

Dennis Egge; NAUS Hawaii Chapter President



1298 Kukila Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818;
Naushawaii1@yahoo.com; 808-382-5833

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Date & Time
Feb 14, 2018, 10:34 am

February 14, 2018

I am writing to share my support for HB2698, relating to Veterans, WWI Commission funding of this critical initiative. The Commission, appointed by Gov. Ige, is working diligently to orchestrate a remembrance and tribute that honors the historic spirit and commitment of Hawaii in support of WWI. As volunteers, nearly 10,000 Hawaiians stepped forward, giving of themselves to support this global effort. The plans under development will not only bring to light their story, but identify a need within our current community to preserve and treasure the historic markers that remain – honoring our past is really the first step in inspiring our future. The vision set forward will bring true meaning to November 11th, Armistice Day, a day marking the world’s commitment to global peace and to honoring all those who devote their lives to protecting this treasured element amongst men. Veterans Day is a day of tribute, not remembrance. As a community with so many active men and women who have served and continue to do so, it is vital that we bring everyone together to share our collective thanks at a location built to honor peace in perpetuity. The proposed events, the exhibit planned sharing photos of our past, and the possible ceremonial use of the Natatorium combine to not only say “thank you,” but to engage all in a reiteration of the values and pledge made following WWI – that we will learn from the devastating impact of war and seek more peaceful solutions to conflict.

I believe it is important for Hawaii to join this national and global effort, to remember and preserve our legacy. I fully support HB2698 and applaud the volunteers working tirelessly to ensure we remember.

Thank you

Elissa Lines

Executive Director

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor

D: 808.441-1017

C: 920-573-0668

LATE

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Date & Time**

Feb 15, 2018, 8:15 am

HB-2698-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 5:27:08 PM

Testimony for VMI on 2/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert G. Buss	Hawai'i Council for the Humanities	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawai'i Council for the Humanities, which does public humanities programs around the state, is a community partner with the Hawai'i World War I Centennial Task Force. In 2017, we conducted a one-day workshop for K-12 teachers on September 30 on "World War I and America and in Hawai'i" attended by twenty teachers from the islands of O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i and Moloka'i and also a forum at the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor on "Over There Over Here: WW I, the U.S. and Hawai'i on November 11, attended by 34 persons. On January 24 we held a community forum at the Waianae Public Library on "The Impact of WWI in the U.S. and Hawai'i." In all of these, those attending expressed their appreciation for the huge impact in racial and social justice that was triggered by WWI. We have appreciated sharing this legacy with the community and endorse the work to be made possible through this bill in more such programs and community events. Please continue supporting such public humanities and educational endeavors by supporting HB2698. -- R. Buss, HCH executive director

LATE

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Date & Time
Feb 15, 2018, 8:12 am

HB-2698-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 5:02:23 PM

Testimony for VMI on 2/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Curtis Manchester	Military Order of Foreign Wars, Hawai'i Commandery	Support	No

Comments:

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 13, 2018, 1:28 pm

HB-2698-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 12:07:17 PM

Testimony for VMI on 2/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanley Y. Fernandez Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support of HB 2698 to commemorate the 100 year of World War I and especially the contributions and sacrifices made by our local Hawaiian citizens in support of winning this Great War. This commemoration in Hawaii will be held inconjunction with the Nation wide commemoration of World War I.

Feb. 13, 2018

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts

I write in support of HB2698_HD1, a bill to fund Hawaii's World War I centennial observances.

I am a citizen of another state, but I have visited Hawaii several times and greatly admire its history and culture, including the involvement of 10,000 of its citizens as volunteers in service during World War I.

In particular, I admire the War Memorial Natatorium in Waikiki. I am a proponent for its renewal and reopening.

As Hawaii's official World War I monument, the Natatorium is where the ceremony should be held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice ending the war on the Western Front. The plans of the World War I State Centennial Task Force to hold the observance there on Nov. 11, 2018, are commendable and appropriate.

I urge the committee to fully fund the commission and its plans for the centennial observances. Please approve HB2698_HD1. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dennis O'Shea
307 Stanmore Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21212-1138
doshea55@comcast.net
410-296-4103

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Date & Time
Feb 14, 2018, 9:44 am

HB-2698-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 6:09:12 AM

Testimony for VMI on 2/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Montgomery	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the commemoration of the centennial anniversary of Hawaii's participation in World War I as an important learning experience for the whole community on a topic so few are aware of but which had a large impact on the Hawaii we have today.

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Date & Time
Feb 14, 2018, 9:52 am

HB-2698-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 8:44:57 AM

Testimony for VMI on 2/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Proud to support the commemoration of historic events and Hawaii's contributions to that event.

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Date & Time
Feb 14, 2018, 9:52 am

HB-2698-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 9:18:51 AM

Testimony for VMI on 2/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Brock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

I offer testimony in support of HB 2698. It is paramount that we honor the sacrifices our ancestors and countrymen have made that we may enjoy our security, liberties and ways of life. We must set the example for our children that we remember these sacrifices and teach them the truth of history that they may make informed decisions for their future based on their past, they are the hope of our nation. I heartily support this bill which appropriates a modest sum for this public benefit.

Mahalo piha

Steve Brock

Aiea HI

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Date & Time
Feb 14, 2018, 10:19 am

HB-2698-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 10:12:45 AM

Testimony for VMI on 2/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Isaacson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Even though 100 years have passed, we should not forget the first World War and the contribution of US citizens and those of the Territory of Hawaii. Please support HB2698.

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Date & Time
Feb 14, 2018, 10:35 am

Sir I am in strong support of Bill HB2698 for the funding of WWI 100th commemoration. We should honor all our veterans who served and have our local veterans be recognized. Thank you for your support.

Sent from my iPad

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Date & Time
Feb 14, 2018, 12:08 pm

HB-2698-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 12:00:35 PM

Testimony for VMI on 2/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Ako DVM	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The minimal funding requested to bring attention to sacrifices made in 1918

pale in comparison to the lessons learned which must be passed on to future generations.

Do not minimize lives given for our country.

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 14, 2018, 1:20 pm

From: Brian Isaacson [<mailto:bisaacso@hawaii.edu>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 10:12 AM
To: Rep. Matthew LoPresti <replopresti@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: HB2698

Even though 100 years have passed, we should not forget the first World War and the contribution of US citizens and those of the Territory of Hawaii. Please support HB2698.

LATE

**RECEIVED
Date & Time**

Feb 15, 2018, 8:11 am

HB-2698-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 3:49:40 PM

Testimony for VMI on 2/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brenden Bliss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write to express my strong support for HB 2698, a bill funding Hawaii's World War I centennial observances.

As a private citizen who serves on the State of Hawaii World War I Centennial Task Force I support the appropriation of moneys for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the armistice which ended the Great War. Events remembering World War One have been held across the United States over the past four years, but it would truly be a failure of leadership if the State of Hawaii did not also participate in these commemorative events due to a lack of funding.

As a professional historian I feel it incumbent upon us to remember the nearly 10,000 residents of Hawaii who contributed to the war effort including those who gave their lives fighting in that conflict. As Hawaii's official World War I monument, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium is the ideal location in which this celebration should be held on Veteran's Day 2018.

I urge you to fully fund the plans for this centennial observance. Please approve HB 2698. Thank you.